

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

AGR-05 SAB-01 ACDA-05 COME-00 DLOS-04 OFA-01 SNM-02

DEAE-00 JUSE-00 SCA-01 /093 W
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O R 012345Z SEP 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9719

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 7751

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX, PINT

SUBJ: PRESIDENT'S FIFTH STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

1. IN FOUR HOUR AND TWENTY MINUTE ADDRESS (MISSING LAST YEAR'S RECORD BY TEN MINUTES), PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA MADE HIS ANNUAL REPORT (INFORME) TO MEXICAN CONGRESS AND NATION. THE FIFTH PRESIDENTIAL INFORME IS CONSIDERED BY MEXICANS TO BE IN POLITICAL TERMS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THE PRESIDENT'S SIX YEAR TERM, COMING ONLY SIX WEEKS BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RULING PARTY'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. IMPORTANCE OF THE INFORME FOR MEXICAN POLITICAL OBSERVERS LIES NOT SO MUCH IN SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT AS IN ITS TONE. INTERPRETATION OF THE INFORME'S POLITICAL NUANCES NATURALLY CAN VARY WIDELY.

2. DESPITE THE INHERENT DRAMA OF OCCASION OF THIS FIFTH INFORME, PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS SEEMED STRANGELY LACKLUSTER AND RELATIVELY NON-DEMOGOGIC. CONTRASTED WITH LAST YEAR'S SUPERCHARGED ADDRESS (DELIVERED WHILE THE PRESIDENT'S OWN FATHER-IN-LAW WAS HELD KIDNAPPED), THIS SPEECH WAS MODE-
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RATE IN TONE. ABSENT WAS LAST YEAR'S STINGING CRITICISM

OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR. INTERNAL SECURITY WAS NOT EVEN MENTIONED. ALTHOUGH THE SPEECH WAS 89 TIMES INTERRUPTED BY APPLAUSE, AUDIENCE RESPONSE SEEMED (BY MEXICAN STANDARDS) PERFUNCTORY. LARGEST APPLAUSE CAME WHEN PRESIDENT DECLARED ELECTION AS PRESIDENT WAS GREATEST HONOR WHICH COULD BE CONFERRED UPON HIM (THIS IN CONTEXT OF UN SEC GEN "NON-CANDIDACY").

3. IF ANY THEMES RAN THROUGH INFORME IT SEEMED TO BE MODERATION IN DOMESTIC POLICY AND REAFFIRMED ASSERTIVENESS IN FOREIGN POLICY. FOR EXAMPLE, IN EXTEMPORANEOUS SECTION DEVOTED TO FREEDOM OF POLITICAL THOUGHT AND ACTION WITHIN MEXICO, PRESIDENT ABRUPTLY AND SEEMINGLY WITHOUT TRANSITION SHIFTED INTO CONDEMNATION OF GREAT NUCLEAR POWERS WHOSE RESOURCES WOULD BE BETTER SPENT IN BENEFIT OF WORLD'S IMPOVERISHED MASSES. OTHER SECTIONS DEALING WITH INTERNAL MATTERS SIMILARLY SLIDED INTO INTERNATIONAL TOPICS SUCH AS THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. NONETHELESS, EVEN THESE SECTIONS SEEMED COMPARATIVELY SUBDUED.

4. REPLY TO ADDRESS BY FEDERAL DEPUTY CARLOS SANORES PEREZ (MAJORITY LEADER OF CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES) WAS MORE EMOTIONAL IN TONE THAN PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS. WHERE PRESIDENT GENERALLY REFRAINED FROM UNPLEASANT REFERENCES TO US, SANORES SPOKE OF THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF "NEIGHBORING POWERS" AND CRITICIZED THE "PRIVILEGED MINORITIES" OF THE INDUSTRIAL PRIVATE SECTOR. SANORES' REPLY MAY WELL PROVOKE MORE INTEREST AND DISCUSSION THAN INFORME ITSELF.

5. FOREIGN POLICY. THE PRESIDENT CITED MEXICO'S PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES, E.G., NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, JUSTICE IN INTERNAL RELATIONS, PEACE. HE SAW PRESENT ERA AS ONE OF CRISIS, CHARACTERIZED BY HUNGER, VIOLENCE, INEQUITABLE ECONOMIC RELATIONS, A DETERIORATION IN INTERNATIONAL MORALITY. HE SHARPLY DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN TWO PRINCIPAL PROTAGONISTS ON WORLD SCENE: GREAT NUCLEAR POWERS AND THE THIRD WORLD. HE SAW ONE HISTORIC MISSION OF THIRD WORLD AS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF "MAJORITY RULE" AMONG NATIONS. REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE QUARTERS OF WORLD'S POPULATION, HE SAID, APPROVED THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES

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OF STATES (CERDS), WHICH MEXICO HAD PROPOSED. (HE CITED EXACT FIGURES FOR, AGAINST, AND ABSTAINING IN UN VOTE ON CERDS). HE SAW A NEED FOR "NEW MECHANISMS" IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS. REFERRING TO HIS PROPOSAL (AT WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ROME LAST YEAR) FOR A WORLD FOOD BANK, HE REPEATED AN EARLIER CHARGE THAT LACK OF WORLD FOOD PRODUCTION WAS DUE TO COLONIALISM. ECHEVERRIA CITED DATA AND LISTS: AGREEMENTS WITH EC AND WITH COMECON,

ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BY MEXICO WITH SOME SEVENTEEN ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES, TO A TOTAL OF NINETY-SEVEN AT PRESENT; VISITS OF HIGH FOREIGN OFFICIALS TO MEXICO (EXPRESSING, IN PASSING, SUPPORT FOR PANAMA'S POSITION ON CANAL); COUNTRIES HE HAD VISITED. HIS MOST RECENT TRIP WAS ONE OF THE "MOST WORTHY CHAPTERS" IN MEXICO'S FOREIGN POLICY HISTORY. HE BRIEFLY URGED TOTAL DISARMAMENT, PRAISED PLANS TO ESTABLISH A LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA) AND CARIBBEAN SHIPPING COMBINE. HE REFERRED PROUDLY TO GOM DECLARATION ON 200 MILE PATRIMONIAL SEA. HE TOOK CRACK AT GOVERNMENTS OF CHILE, SPAIN, AND SOUTH AFRICA (HE HOPED GOM COULD ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH "DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS" IN THOSE COUNTRIES BEFORE END OF HIS TERM) AND VOICED PLEASURE OVER OAS ACTION ON CUBA, NOTING THAT MEXICO HAD NEVER JOINED IN ISOLATING CUBA FROM HEMISPHERIC NEIGHBORS. ON BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH US, SEE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH. FINALLY, ECHEVERRIA ALLUDED TO SPECULATION ABOUT HIS POSSIBLE CANDIDACY FOR SECGEN OF UNITED NATIONS. SOME, HE SAID, HAD CHARGED THAT SOME OF HIS ACTIONS HAD BEEN MOTIVATED BY DESIRE FOR SECGEN JOB: THIS WAS FALSE; HIS ACTIONS HAD ALWAYS BEEN MOTIVATED ONLY BY INTERESTS OF MEXICO. IN ANY CASE, HE WOULD NEVER RECEIVE ANY HIGHER HONOR THAN THAT BESTOWED UPON HIM WHEN HE WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MEXICO (PROLONGED APPLAUSE).

6. RELATIONS WITH US. ECHEVERRIA REFERRED TO ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT, DECLARING THAT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN AREAS WHERE NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES ARE CULTIVATED "MUST COOPERATE" WITH EFFORTS BY MEXICAN ARMY AND OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL. HE NEXT REFERRED TO THE MEXICAN WORKERS ILLEGALLY IN THE US: THE SOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM, HE SAID, WILL DEPEND UPON "OUR OWN EFFORTS."
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NEVERTHELESS, HE INSISTED UPON PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ILLEGALS. (HE DID NOT AS IN AN EARLIER SECTION OF SPEECH, REPEAT CALL FOR "LABOR RIGHTS" OF ILLEGALS.) MEXICO, HE SAID, DOES NOT NOW ASK FOR A BRACERO AGREEMENT BECAUSE "THE PROPOSED CONDITIONS DID NOT SATISFY MEXICAN INTERESTS." (COMMENT: THIS PUZZLING STATEMENT, AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, IS NOT BASED UPON FACTS, SINCE USG HAS NOT PROPOSED CONDITIONS FOR ANY NEW BRACERO AGREEMENT.) ECHEVERRIA MENTIONED IN VERY COMPLIMENTARY TERMS BORDER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD LAST OCTOBER AND MOST RECENT MEETING BETWEEN US AND MEXICAN CONGRESSMEN.

7. COMMENT ON FOREIGN POLICY SECTION OF SPEECH. WE SEE LITTLE NEW OR UNEXPECTED IN ECHEVERRIA'S COMMENTS (ASIDE FROM CURIOUS STATE ON BRACERO ISSUE ABOVE). IT WAS

EVIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT ECHEVERRIA FELT MORE INTEREST AND ENTHUSIASM ON THIS SUBJECT THAN ON MANY OTHERS COVERED IN HIS LENGTHY ADDRESS.

8. FOREGOING REFLECTS HIGHLIGHTS OF SPEECH, DRAFTED WITHOUT BENEFIT OF AMBASSADOR JOVA'S ON-THE-SCENE IMPRESSIONS, OBSERVATIONS, AND CONCLUSIONS WHICH WILL BE REFLECTED IN FOLLOW-ON REPORTS. TEXT OF ADDRESS WILL BE POUCHED TO ARA/MEX.
JOVA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MEXICO07751
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750302-0067
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750994/aaaadevw.tel
Line Count: 179
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT'S FIFTH STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MX, (ECHEVERRIA ALVAREZ, LUIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006